

FOR HONEST SPORT

The Present Reform Crusade in Amateur Athletics.

TO WEED OUT PROFESSIONALS

A Hearty and Determined Movement to Do Away With Expense and Valuable Prize Evils.



THE most important matter at present agitating amateur athletes all over the United States is the war fare being waged against the expense and valuable prize evils by the combined forces of the Amateur Athletic Union and the League of American Wheelmen. For a long time past there has been a feeling among honest amateurs, who are in athletics for recreation, health and glory simply, that they were constantly handicapped by being compelled to meet so-called amateurs who were really professionals if the truth were known, and who competed solely or principally for pecuniary gain. Powerful and wealthy athletic clubs like the Manhattan A. C. and the New York A. C. prompted by a spirit of rivalry and a desire to hold as members men who were record breakers, would put up very valuable prizes, which were easily convertible into cash, and pay large sums of money to these athletes under the guise of traveling and training expenses.

This was in reality paying crack athletes to compete under this or that club banner, and it resulted in the discouragement and demoralization of honest amateurs who were not making a living out of sport, and who were endeavoring to live up to the laws governing amateur competition. Aspiring young bicyclists, for example, who saw crack riders training for weeks at the expense of some club in direct violation of the laws of the A. A. U. and L. A. W., could naturally not see good reason why they should not do likewise.



A. G. MILLS.

In boxing competitions the abuse of the prize system was flagrant, and practically resulted in the enlistment under club banners of professional sluggers, against whom legitimate amateurs had little chance. Wealthy clubs anxious to see a good "mill" would offer a gold watch and \$300 in cash as first prize, and the winner would pocket the cash and pawn the watch for what he could get. This was not done in such a manner that it could be easily proven, but the facts were notorious. In speaking of this deplorable state of affairs Frederick W. Janssen, long an opponent of the expense and valuable prize evils, and A. A. U. delegate from the Staten Island A. C., emphasized his denunciation by the following incident:

On Feb. 25 last the Staten Island A. C. was notified by a New York pawnbroker that two men had just offered him a gold medal won by A. Ullman, of the Pastime A. C., in December, 1890, at the Madison Square garden tournament. As Ullman was notified and made no defense the natural presumption is that he was one of the two men who endeavored to pawn his prize. His action was in direct violation of general rule No. 5 of the A. A. U., which provides for the immediate suspension of a member guilty of selling or pawning his prize. Unfortunately, not one case in a hundred is so plain against a man as that of Ullman. At a dinner or in private athletes "basing" about basing gives received money or big prizes, but when called for official examination they are as close mouthed as clams.

About a year ago the curse of veiled professionalism in amateur athletics became



CHARLES S. DAVOL.

so demoralizing that the A. A. U. and L. A. W. jointly adopted a resolution which provided that no club belonging to either organization should give and none of their members should receive any expense money over and above an athlete's actual transportation to and from competitions, and his hotel bills while in attendance as a competitor. As will be noted, this resolution excluded all training expenses. It further provided for a guilty athlete's suspension.

In November, 1890, the first thunderbolt aimed for reform crashed across the athletic heavens. The dove to launch the bolt was Chairman Charles S. Davol, of the L. A. W. racing board. Under the joint resolution eighteen of the crack wheelmen of America, including Windie, Zimmerman, Campbell, Van Wagner and the Murphy brothers, were temporarily suspended from racing, upon the charge of having received training expenses from various clubs, members of the L. A. W. or A. A. U. Zimmerman was soon reinstated, but the others remained under the ban.

The A. A. U. was hard hit by this move, and protested against the suspensions on the ground that the resolution had not been properly brought to the attention of its athletes and clubs. But the movement brought about an alliance between the A. A. U. and the L. A. W., the object of which is to secure harmony in the laws governing amateur competitions, and effectually knock out the valuable prize and extraordinary "expensive" evils. The joint proposition in regard to expenses is that A. A. U. and L. A. W. clubs may pay and their competing members receive actual and necessary traveling expenses (when paid), including sleeping car berth to and from the place of competition, and actual board (when paid) at place of competition,

including one day before and one day after the event. These expenses must be proven by vouchers. All other expenses, except entrance fees and the transportation of apparatus (other than cycles), are strictly barred.

The joint proposition concerning prizes provides that none shall be given or received except "properly inscribed medals, cups, badges, banners, diplomas or wreaths." Only three prizes of the value indicated shall be presented in the following contests: Club games, \$30, \$10 and \$5; association meetings, \$35, \$20 and \$10; and national championships, \$50, \$25 and \$15. No prizes shall be offered to clubs whose athletes shall make the highest aggregate score. These rules cannot fail to have a most beneficial effect upon amateur athletics.

Prominent among the men who have worked to bring about this needed reform are A. G. Mills, President of the N. Y. A. C.; J. R. Dunn and C. S. Davol, of the L. A. W.; C. F. Mathewson, Berkeley A. C.; J. E. Sullivan, N. J. A. C.; and F. W. Janssen, S. I. A. C. The suspended wheelmen will probably be reinstated under the new regime. EARLE H. EATON.

BASEBALL BRIEFS.

Rochester, N. Y., will play ball this season in the International league.

H. F. Allen has been chosen president of the Jamestown (N. Y.) Baseball association.

Tommy Cahill, catcher for the New Haven last season, has signed for seven months with the Louisville Association club.

The candidates for the Princeton university baseball team will be coached this spring by Tim Keefe.

There is a rumor to the effect that the Association will put reserve teams into New York, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Chicago. These teams, it is said, will be composed of the surplus players on the market. League men say the rumor is a bluff.

Ohio has made a move to stop Sunday ball playing. A bill with that end in view has been introduced in the legislature.

A novelty in the baseball world is Hoy, the deaf mute outfielder. His affliction does not seem to prevent him from playing good ball.

Mike Kelly is doing some tall hustling for a new love, the Association. He is here, there and everywhere looking up talent for his Cincinnati team.

August Weyhing, the pitcher of the Athletics, will draw a salary of \$2,500 this year. Cross will catch him.

The new Cincinnati League club will be managed the coming season by Thomas Loftus.

By a new rule each team in the League will be able this year to open the grounds of another club.

One of Joe Donoghue's Skates.

Here is a cut of one of the skates that carried Joe Donoghue to victory on his recent successful trip abroad. Previous to his tour Donoghue had long used the "Newburgh" skate, a style peculiar to the many crack skaters of the Donoghue family. But the Norwegian style took his fancy and he at once adopted it.

JOE DONOGHUE'S SKATE.

The Norwegian skate is firmly fastened to the shoe, and the two are inseparable. The chance of accident is thus greatly decreased. The runner is eighteen inches long and one-sixteenth of an inch thick. Shoes and skates together weigh about two and one-half pounds.

DISAPPOINTED.

After Waiting All These Years It Was Too, Too Much.

A big, burly man about thirty years of age entered a shoe shop on Grand avenue the other day, and after looking all around and closely scanning the proprietor, he said:

"You are not the man who run this shop fifteen years ago?"

"No."

"Are you his son, brother or any relation?"

"No."

"Where is the man?"

"He is dead."

"What—dead?"

"Been dead fourteen years. Owe you anything?"

"No! I owed him something. I owed him the all-fired licking a man ever got, and I came in to give it to him, to-day."

"Well, you are too late. Why did you wait so long?"

"He was a big fellow and had a bad look to him. I was only a boy when I came in here one day fifteen years ago to have a lift put on the heel of my boot. I accidentally upset some of his traps and he put the lift somewhere else. I told him I'd grow for him, and that's what I've been doing."

"Sorry for you," said the shoemaker as he shaved away at a piece of sole leather.

"It's a mean trick! It's fifteen years thrown dead away! Have his heirs any claim on this shop?"

"And you are not related?"

"Not in the least."

"Then I couldn't punch your head on the old account?"

"Mercy, no! Might as well punch the Chinaman next door."

"Well, I'm sorry, but I don't see how it can be helped. I suppose I ought to have kept closer track of him. You don't want to stand up before me?"

"Oh, no, no, no."

"Well, good day. I'd like to give you one punch for the sake of the departed, but I'll let you off this time."—Detroit Free Press.

The Boy Was Right.

Several weeks ago a boy entered a candy store on Michigan avenue and said:

"Please, sir, my father is dead, and won't you trust me for two sticks of candy?"

The grocer said he would, and did, but the boy returned in a few days and, without reference to the old deal, said:

"Please, sir, my father is dead, and won't you trust me for two apples?"

He got them, and returned again and again, always making his father's death the excuse for getting trusted. The grocer's patience reached the limit the other day, and he asked:

"Boy, is your father really dead?"

"Yes, sir."

"And how much longer are you going to ask for credit because your father died?"

"Why can't you give a boy a show?" was the answer. "You know as well as I do that my father was again under a year and hold her position in society."—Detroit Free Press.

The Effect Somewhat Marred.

The visitor from Hawcreek had been invited to address the Sunday school.

"I am reminded, children," he said, "of the career of a boy who was once no larger than some of the little fellows I see here before me. He played truant when he was sent to school, went fishing every Sunday, ran away from home before he was 10,

years old, learned to drink, smoke, chew tobacco, play cards and slip in under the canvas when the circus came around. He went into bad company, frequented lively saloons and low barrooms, finally became a pickpocket, then a forger, then a horse thief, and one day in a fit of drunken madness he committed a cowardly murder. Children," he continued impressively, "where do you think that boy is now?"

"He stands before us!" groused the children, with one voice.—Chicago Tribune.

What, Indeed?

An amusing anecdote is related of Robert Browning as regards the uses of the Browning societies. A society had met, and the passage under discussion was taken from "Child Roland to the dark tower came." The passage was most obscure, and each side waxed warm in advocating their own view. To calm the storm, the president of the society gave notice that he would write to Mr. Browning himself. At the next meeting, amid the greatest excitement, the president announced that he had received the following reply:

"I could certainly explain the passage, but then what would be the use of the Browning society?"—London Tit-Bits.

A Modest Opinion.

Father—Now, Peyton, my boy, who are really the best behaved members of your class?

Peyton—Well, pa, I think that Tom Pickett and I are; but, to tell the truth, I sometimes have my doubts about Tom.

Father—How many in your class?

Peyton—There's Tom and me.—New York Herald.

Euphemistic.

"See, Adolph, that is your tailor sitting over there."

"I beg of you don't look that way, then, or he will recognize us."

"And why not? Aren't you right with him?"

"H'm—yes, but he owes me a receipt for two suits."—Fliegende Blätter.

Advice.

Pretty Daughter—Ma, may I go boating?

Fond Mother—Indeed you shan't! The idea! Who invited you?

Daughter—Mr. Bliffers.

Fond Mother—Oh, yes, you may go with Mr. Bliffers. He has a cork leg, and if the boat tips just you hang on to that.—London Tit-Bits.

Telling Him How.

"Say, Mr. Baker, have you got any stale bread?"

"Yes."

"Would you like to know a good way to keep it from getting stale?"

"I would, yes."

"Then sell it while it's fresh."—Washington Post.

The Horns of a Dilemma.

"How does it happen that you, a medical student, go so long without taking your examination?"

"Don't you see, my dear madam, a physician with practice has nothing to live for, and a physician without practice nothing to live on?"—Fliegende Blätter.

The Little Trader.

Moritz received from his teacher a box on the ear, but undeterred, for it was his neighbor who had been out of order.

"Moritz," he said, "you see that it was not my fault. Don't forget to credit me with that box on the ear, will you?"—Fliegende Blätter.

Easily Identified.

Mrs. Westside—I have a splendid girl now, a perfect treasure, always cheerful, and attends to everything as well as I could do it myself.

Mrs. Eastend—Have you got that girl? I had her once.—New York Weekly.

After Appeal 1,113.

Murderer—Sweet lady, will you bring me a bouquet of these same flowers on the day of my execution?

Murderer Worshiper—You shall have it—unless the species has become extinct by that time.—New York Herald.

An Anxious Sponse.

Maids—Oh, madam, your husband has fallen in at the port of Dover!

Madam—Dearer! Did he break any of the bric-a-brac.—Birmingham Republican.

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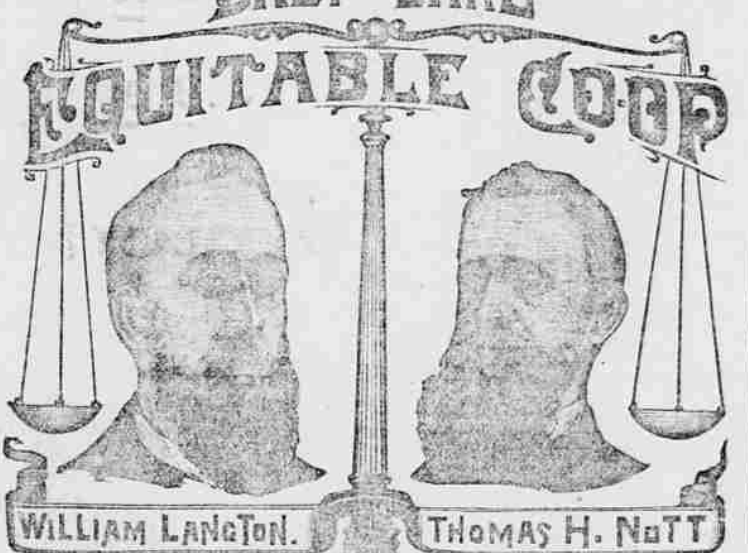
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